
NEWMUSIC USA



#WeAreNewMusic

A decorative graphic consisting of a red and black wave with blue dots, positioned to the right of the hashtag.

Organization Fund

Webinar: Application & FAQ

March 5, 2026, 2pm ET



Overview

About the program

Updates to the program

Funding areas

Eligibility

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Deadlines and timeline

Q&A



Please use Q&A and
not the chat for your questions

Organization Fund

About

The New Music Organization Fund offers **grants to non-profit organizations, performance groups, dance organizations, festivals, presenters, and venues** that need support to sustain their programming of new music, nurturing of music creators, and other artists. This program is for outstanding organizations that work regularly with and support the development of music creators and artists and offer crucial resources to their community. The main criteria for this fund are:

- **Artistry** of applicant organization and/or supported artists.
- **Community Value, Engagement & Impact** on the community of artists and/or audiences served.
- **Organizational Readiness & Need: Why Now?**

Funding Areas (select only one)

Organizations can apply for funding through one of the following strands:

General Support

Creation of New Work

Live Music for Dance



General Support

This strand is for outstanding organizations that work regularly with, and support the development of, music creators and artists and offer crucial resources to their community.

Awards from this strand are to be used for general operating costs which support the organization's regular programming of and collaboration with US, Native land, and US territory-based composers and artists. Your application does not need to be tied to any specific project, but we are asking you to tell us about the programs, events, and initiatives that best align with New Music USA's support.



General Support

Organizations seeking general support will be asked to present their year-round work, including:

- Planned music programming.
- Opportunities provided to artists and music creators.
- Community of artists served (we support music creators/artists based in the US, Native lands, and US territories).
- Audiences their activity will reach.
- Impact on their community.
- Endorsement letter/statement of support from an artist, invested supporter, or audience members (can be a letter, video, or audio).
- **General Operating Support funds must be used between July 2026 and June 2027.**

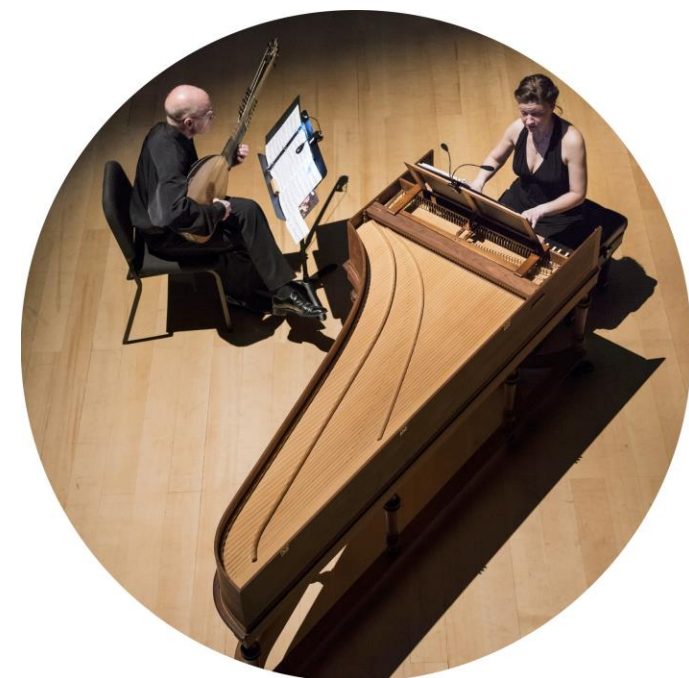


Creation of New Work

This strand is intended for a specified new music project/ program

We are particularly interested in funding the creation and/or commissioning of new work.

Projects must take place between July 2026 and June 2028.



Live Music for Dance

This strand is for dance organizations that work regularly with music creators and musicians

The fund aims to support and encourage the use and creation of new and live music for dance performances, support collaborations between music creators/composers and choreographers, foster meaningful collaborations between musicians and dance companies, and create performance opportunities for musicians.

Dance organizations are only eligible to apply for Live Music for Dance funding; they are not eligible to apply for the General Operating Support or Creation of New Work strands.

Projects must take place anytime between July 2026 and June 2028.



Funding Areas - POLL

Which funding strand are you planning on applying to?

General Support

Creation of New Work

Live Music for Dance



Eligibility - **All applicant organizations must:**

- Be based and doing work in the US, sovereign Native lands, or US territories.
- Have a minimum of three years of performing, programming, and budget activity at the time of the application.
- Have an average annual budget between \$5,000 and \$3 million over the past three years.
- Have a dedicated organizational bank account.
- Not be a university.
- Not be an individual. This fund is for organizations only. Individuals may not apply.
- Must have completed all previously awarded activities through New Music USA and submitted all required reporting.
- Must have not been an awardee of the 2025 New Music Organization Fund cycle. 2025 Organization Fund awardees will be eligible to apply again in 2027.

Eligibility- General Support

Applicant organizations must:

- Have a commitment to producing, performing, and/or commissioning the work of living, US/territories-based music creators on a regular basis.
- Demonstrate commitment to working and performing in their community.



Eligibility- Creation of New Work & Live Music for Dance

Applicant organizations must:

- Confirm that any newly commissioned work is entirely new; Proposals for expansions, arrangements or re-stagings of existing works are not eligible.

Applicant creators/musicians must:

- Be based and doing work in the US and remain so for the duration of the project.
- Not be enrolled in a degree-giving program.
- Have completed any and all projects associated with previous awards from New Music USA including the Organization Fund, Creator Fund, Next Jazz Legacy, Reel Change, and Amplifying Voices.



Application Requirements

- Endorsement letter/ Artistic Letter of Support (all)
- Information About Your Organization (all)
- Information about the Project and Artists (Creation of New Work/Music for Dance only)
- Music Examples (all)
- Finances (all)



Application Requirements

General Operating Support – Community Endorsement Letter

- A statement of endorsement from an artist or other member of your community (e.g. audience member, board member, invested supporter, partner, performer). Please highlight:
 - Why the organization applying is important to its community.
 - What is unique about the organization's activities.
 - Why New Music USA's support would be important to the organization now.



Application Requirements

Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance – Artistic Letter of Support

- A statement of endorsement/commitment from the creator and/or musicians that are collaborating with the organization on the project. The statement should include the writer's/writers' role(s) in the proposed project.
- For Live Music for Dance: It is recommended to also include a statement from the choreographer.



Application Requirements

FAQs about endorsement letters and letters of commitment:

- The endorsement letter and artistic letter of support are application requirements that help our panelists gauge the applicant's impact on their community.
- You only need to submit one type of letter depending on the funding you are applying for.
- The letters can be submitted as PDF files, or as audio or video files. There are no additional formatting requirements.
- Please note that applicants cannot write their own endorsement letters, nor can members of the applicant organization's staff with the exception of the organization's choreographer.



Application Requirements

Information About Your Organization (all)

- A brief organizational history or bio (up to 150 words)
- Your mission statement (No word limit)
- Describe your organization's upcoming artistic programming for the proposed grant period (if available), highlighting your commitment to new music, the new music program planned, and any artist development opportunities you are providing. (up to 250 words)



Application Requirements

Information About Your Organization (all) cont...

- Describe your organization's impact on the community it serves. Why is your organization important to this community, and what is its unique role? (up to 500 words)
- Share why this funding is so important to your organization right now.
 - How will this grant help your organization achieve a goal or project, or navigate a transition?
 - How will the organization or artists involved benefit from New Music USA's support? (up to 100 words)



Application Requirements

Information About Your Project (all)

- **Project Description or Use of Funds (up to 200 words)**
- **For General Operating Support applicants:** Please summarize any specific music program or project that New Music USA's funding would help to advance. If applicable, please include the names of any specific music creators you will be supporting.
- **For Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance applicants:** Please tell us about the project, including key personnel, timeline, goals, and expected outcomes.



Application Requirements

(Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance only)

- Creator(s)/ musician(s) involved in the project (up to 350 words)
 - bios
 - indicate their city and state
 - link to their website, if they have one.



Application Requirements

Music Examples (all)

- 2 to 3 samples of music you have commissioned or programmed
 - you may provide links to YouTube, Vimeo, or upload wav/mp3 files
 - Keep file uploads to under 500Mb.
 - If your files are larger than 500Mb, share a link to YouTube or Vimeo instead.
- For the Creation of New Work/Music for Dance
 - Include a work sample of the music creator and/or musicians you are planning to work with



Application Requirements

Finances

- Amount requested.
- A budget for your current financial year (please include your request to New Music USA in your income projections) (General Operating Support only).
- Budget of project (for Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance only)



There is no formatting requirement for the budget. You can share a Quickbooks report, excel, pdf, etc.

Application Requirements

Finances

- All applicants should share the organizational budget totals representing the last 3 years.
 - Total income & expenses
FY25, FY24, FY23 -->
- **Only General Support** needs to share a recent audit or financial statement

Please provide in the fields below your organization's budget amounts.

We would like the simple fiscal numbers (income and expense totals) for the last 3 years. Please enter them below. Please provide in the fields below your organization's budget amounts.

You can use whatever fiscal year your organization follows (July- June, January-December, all are ok.

Budget of the current financial year (FY2025):

Expense

Income

Last financial year (FY 2024):

Expense

Income

Previous financial year (FY 2023):

Expense

Income

Successful applications will exhibit some of these traits:

- Commitment to programming new music and providing opportunities for creators throughout the year/season.
- Commitment to commissioning and facilitating the creation of new work.
- Demonstrated artistic merit and performance history.
- Commitment to relationship building and collaboration with artists, other organizations, and the community.
- Offering of learning, engagement, and/or artist development or educational opportunities, and commitment to building future audiences for the organization's work
- Commitment to cultivating creativity, as well as leveraging new music in the service of individual and community transformation.

Review Process

1. Applications will be screened by staff for eligibility and completeness.
2. Complete applications move forward to a peer review process completed by 25-30 panelists working from around the country. Every application will be assessed by multiple panelists.
3. Panelists will review each application against the criteria: artistry, community value, engagement & impact, and organizational readiness & need
4. Panelists provide a score that will be averaged to create a ranked list.
5. Award determinations will be made using the ranked list and will consider funding restrictions as necessary.

Review Process cont..

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Artistry: As demonstrated by the quality of the submitted music examples; artistry of the organization's programming including creators, and/or musicians involved.

Community Value, Engagement & Impact: The organization's impact on the community of artists and audiences it serves; history of regular and ongoing performance, programming, and engagement of living creators; evidence of programming that reflects and resonates with the organization's community

Organizational Readiness & Need: Why Now? How would your organization use New Music USA's support, and why is it important to have now? How will this grant help your organization achieve a goal or project, or navigate a transition? How will the organization or artists involved benefit from New Music USA's support?

Awards

This year we aim to fund approximately 70 to 80 organizations with an average award of \$7,000. You may apply for up to \$10,000. Awarded organizations will be required to credit New Music USA's support.



Deadlines & Timelines

Application deadline is March 19, 2026, at 11:59 pm Eastern.

- Decisions will be made in late June 2026.
- Funds for General Support are to be used for the 2026-27 season (July -June).
- Creation of New Work & Live Music for Dance funds are to be used between July 2026 and June 2028 based on project timeline.



This webinar + the Q&A from the webinar will be posted to our website on the program page and on our YouTube channel

If we run out of time and don't answer all the questions on the call, please know we will work through your questions afterwards and post the answers shortly after this event.



Please use Q&A and not the chat for your questions

Q & A



Please use Q&A and not the chat for your questions



Information

Links

- Online application: newmusicusa.smapply.io
- Program page: newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/
- FAQ: <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#faq>

Have more questions?

- We have another Q&A sessions where you can ask us about your application
 - Q&A: March 11, 2026, 2pm EST / 11am PST
- Due to the high volume of applications we receive, New Music USA will only be able to provide email support for technical issues with the application portal. If you have a technical issue with the application site, email grants@newmusicusa.org with “Technical Issue” in the subject line.
- Notifications about your application will be made via email from our application site. Please add noreply@mail.smapply.net to your address book to ensure you receive these communications.

Application preview

New Music Organization Fund

New Music Organization Fund: Overview and Guidelines

General Operating Support, Creation of New Work, Live Music for Dance

About

The New Music Organization Fund offers grants to non-profit organizations, performance groups, dance organizations, festivals, presenters, and venues that need support to sustain their programming of new music, nurturing of music creators, and other artists. This program is for outstanding organizations that work regularly with and support the development of music creators and artists and offer crucial resources to their community. The main criteria for this fund are:

- Artistry of applicant organization and/or supported artists.
- Impact on the community of artists and/or audiences served.
- Need for funding now.
- The organization's commitment to inclusion and belonging.

5 Applications

APPLY

Opens

Feb 27 2025 02:00 PM (EST)

Deadline

Mar 27 2025 11:59 PM (EDT)

← Back to application

New Music Organization Fund

Application ID: ODF-0000003073

Status: testing the application

✓ Eligibility (2025)

Contact Information

Application 2025

Work Samples (all)

Budget (all)

Demographic questions (optional)

1 of 5 required tasks complete

Last edited: Mar 3 2025 01:10 PM (EST)

REVIEW

SUBMIT

Deadline: Mar 27 2025 11:59 PM (EDT)

Application 2025

Application

Saving draft...

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Please select the funding opportunity your organization is applying to.

- General Operating Support
- Creation of New Music
- Live Music for Dance

Clear

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NEXT

Budget FAQ

What do you mean by “current budget?”

- All applicants are required to submit a budget for their organization. Please provide the budget that best represents your upcoming fiscal year, and include the amount you are requesting from the Organization Fund in your income projections.
 - General Operating Support applicants: please share the budget for your current financial year.
 - Creation of New Work and Live Music For Dance applicants: please share the project budget.
- NOTE: There are no formatting requirements. Please share the documents you have available in your preferred format. It can be a Quickbooks report, excel, pdf, etc.
- The goal is to show you have been in operation and have a history of budgeting and programming.

Work samples FAQ

What kind of work samples do you require?

- Please include 2 to 3 examples of your recent work that you have commissioned, performed, or presented. You may upload mp3, video or image files, or provide links to YouTube/Vimeo examples
- We recommend up to 5 minutes per work sample. You can submit any length of a work sample, however, if you are submitting longer works, please write suggested start and end times to view/listen.

My video work sample isn't loading and/or I can't see my video when I preview my application. What happened, and what do I do?

- If you are uploading video work samples please prioritize .mp4 videos, using the most up to date software you have, as they will embed more seamlessly. If you are providing links to YouTube or Vimeo please be sure to provide "embed" links or conversely make sure your links are public. If you are providing links to password protected work samples, please make sure that you provide the password in the description of the work or at the tail end of your narrative, otherwise the panel will not be able to access your samples.
- Please limit the file size to under 500MB. If you'd like to share a larger file, please upload it to YouTube or Vimeo and share a link instead.
- Please note, Youtube links must be submitted in the 'youtube.com/xxx' format, not 'youtu.be/xxx' format. To copy your link in the correct format, open theyoutu.be format link in any browser and copy the full youtube.com link from your browser navigation bar.

Application: Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance

For Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance Applicants, there are 2 pages to the application.

You will not see the second page until you finish the responses on the first page.

[← Back to application](#)
New Music Organization Fund
 Test application
 ID: ODF-0000003258 | Status: testing the application

- Eligibility (2025)
- Contact Information
- Application 2025** >
- Work Samples (all)
- Budget (all)
- Demographic questions (optional) (optional)

1 of 5 required tasks complete

Last edited: Mar 13 2025 10:00 AM (EDT)

[↶](#) [📄](#) Application 2025 ⋮

Application ✓ Draft saved 🗑️

Organization/Collective Name of Applicant:

Please let us know the type of collective/ organization.

Choose all that may apply:

- Collective
- Ensemble
- Festival
- Multidisciplinary
- Opera
- Orchestra
- Presenting/Performing

33%

Application: Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance

For Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance Applicants, **there are 2 pages to the application.**

After you respond to the questions and upload the letter of support/endorsement, below the *Project Description or Use of Funds* question there is a **NEXT** button. Select that to see the project specific questions.

Project Description or Use of Funds (up to 200 words)

For General Operating Support applicants: Please summarize any specific music program or project that New Music USA's funding would help to advance. If applicable, please include the names of any specific music creators you will be supporting.

For Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance applicants: Please tell us about the project, including key personnel, timeline, goals, and expected outcomes.

This value must be between 1 and 200 words.

Select **NEXT** see the project specific questions .

PREVIOUS

SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING

NEXT

Application: Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance

The program specific questions are listed in the guidelines and below:

- Name of Project
- Information about the artists collaborating with Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance applicants: Creator/musician names, locations, bios, and websites. (Up to 350 words)